

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated June 23, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 23, 2008.

Statement of Substance of Interview

On August 11, 2008, a telephonic interview was held between Walter C. Grollitsch and the Examiner. The parties discussed the cited references Lima (U.S. 6,079,498) and Kluth (U.S. 3,602,302). Claims 1, 60 and 71 were also discussed.

The arguments and amendments herein are presented in accordance with the substance of the interview to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 51, 58, 61-62, 69-71, 73, 74, 77 and 80-82 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lima (U.S. 6,079,498) and Hicks (U.S. 6,012,878). The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 51, 58-62, 66-71, 73-78 and 80-82 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kluth (U.S. 3,602,302) and Hicks. The Examiner rejected claims 15-17, 54, 55, 57 and 63-65 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lima and Hicks alone, or Kluth and Hicks alone. The Examiner rejected claims 12, 56 and 79 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lima and Hicks or Kluth and Hicks as applied to claims 11, 55, and 78 above, further in view of Hansen EP 1184537. Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 2, 5, 10-17, 51, 54-71 and 73-82, thereby obviating the rejection.

New Claims

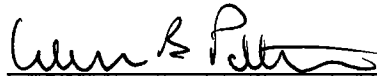
New claims 83-118 have been added to claim aspects of the present invention. Applicant submits that no new subject matter has been added. Further, Applicant believes that the combination of Lima and other cited references or the combination of Kluth and other cited references fail to teach all the limitations in new claims 83-118. Lima merely discloses an oil production system (see Lima Figure 3) that includes a wellhead (35) that is connected to a tank (45) on a platform (34) via a plurality of

production flow lines (30, 31, 32 and 33). Lima further discloses a mechanical interface (29) that is pumped through the production lines (30, 31, 32, and 33) from a launch device (38) to a receiving device (38) in order to push along a volume of hydrocarbon mixture which has accumulated in the flow lines (see Lima, col. 7, lines 58-64). Kluth merely discloses an oil production system configured to transport well fluid from a well (37) through a production line (84), a master valve (110), a connecting pipe (112), a wing valve (114) into a header (see Kluth, col. 3, lines 42-48 and Figure 2). Additionally, the other cited references fail to cure the deficiencies of Lima or Kluth. For these reasons, Applicant believes that new claims 83-118 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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